



Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Contracts Branch Prospectus

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WILDLIFE CONTRACTS BRANCH PROSPECTUS

There are six major focus areas of the Wildlife Contracts Branch. The focus areas include wildlife connectivity and habitat fragmentation mitigation, implementation of wildlife research contracts and grants to conduct species surveys, monitoring and distribution studies, in-lieu fee/mitigation banking restoration, administration and implementation of a Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration program and to provide archeological services to other work units in the Department.

Within the Senior Staff leadership team for the Branch, there are three staff members with a Masters Degree and four Ph.D. level members. Senior staff represents well over 165 years of experience in the Wildlife Management and Ecology Fields. All members of the Branch are dedicated to furthering the Department's mission of conserving, enhancing and restoring Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats and preserving and propagating wildlife, while fulfilling its statutory mandates. Currently there are over 40 biologists in the Branch.

Branch staff works closely with both internal and external customers to respond to their research needs, comply with a variety of state and federal laws and rules, and assist in mitigating any project impacts on wildlife and associated habitats.

The Branch is currently involved in over 60 studies involving various species, roadway ecology and habitat restoration programs statewide. In order to ensure that projects are brought in at or under budget and the deliverables are finalized before, or by the due date, both the Department and the Branch have extensive tracking systems in place. There is also continuous communication between the Branch, the Department's Budget and Finance Division personnel, and the Project Manager to ensure deadlines are met and budgets are properly managed. The number of repeat external customers the Branch services is evidence of the high quality and timeliness of its work products.

In order to facilitate the various species studies, the Department is self permitting for state wildlife species. When federally protected species are involved, the Branch and its personnel are covered by the Department's blanket U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permits.

The following are examples of past or present projects:

Ongoing Restoration Projects

- San Pedro Property Restoration
- Chevelon Wildlife Area Wetland and Riparian Gallery Forest Restoration and Monitoring
- Springwater and Cieneguitas Wetland Restoration
- Powers Butte Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration

Threatened and Endangered, and Sensitive Species Projects

- Distribution and Roost Site Habitat Requirements of the Western Yellow and Western Red Bats
- Lesser Longed Nosed Bat Monitoring
- Lesser Long-Nosed Bat and Mexican Long-Nosed Bat Roost Protection Assessment
- Golden Eagle Nest Site Monitoring
- Post-Delisting Monitoring of Peregrine Falcons
- Survey, Monitoring and Distribution Study of Le Conte's Thrasher
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys and Habitat Evaluations along the San Pedro River
- Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Captive Breeding
- Flat Tail Horned Lizard Demographic Monitoring
- Tortoise Monitoring
- Monitoring and Surveys for Tucson Shovel-Nosed snake
- Mexican Garter Snake Surveys
- Yuma Clapper Rail Surveys and Monitoring

Alternative Energy Projects

- Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring as Related to Solar Energy Projects
- Potential Impacts of Wind Energy Development on the Movement Patterns of Pronghorn Antelope

Habitat Evaluation and Planning Projects

- Ponderosa Pine Snag Study as Related to Wildlife Usage
- Avian use of Saguaros Surveys

Wildlife Connectivity and Mammal Projects

- Kit Fox Surveys
- State Route 260 Wildlife Movement Study and Implementation
- US Highway 93 and 68 Desert Bighorn Sheep Study and Implementation
- State Route 77 Connectivity
- I-17 Wildlife Fencing Study and Implementation
- I-17 Elk and Deer Habitat Fragmentation Study
- Mountain Lion Movement Patterns
- SR 64 Wildlife Movement and Habitat Connectivity Study
- Pronghorn Movement North of I-40 Study
- Post-construction Wildlife Connectivity Monitoring
- McDowell Sonoran Preserve Wildlife Linkage Study

Miscellaneous Projects

- Statewide Assessment of Wildlife Use at Abandoned Mine Sites and Retrofit
- Band-Tailed Pigeons Nest Habitat Analysis and Management
- Burrowing Owl Surveys and Development of Management Guidelines
- Lowland Leopard Frog and Colorado River Toad Project - Multi-Species Conservation Plan
- Habitat Conservation Plan Development and Administration

The Branch has office locations at the Department headquarters in Phoenix and satellite offices in Tucson and Flagstaff. All of these locations have access to the extensive resources of the Department. The Branch has, through the implementation of hundreds of projects, accumulated the equipment necessary to conduct in-depth species studies and restoration activities. It maintains its own motor pool of 4X4 trucks and SUV's, ATV's and UTV's. It also maintains an inventory of equipment used in its restoration activities such as cement mixers, welders, generators, a tractor with attachments and other miscellaneous field equipment.

SENIOR STAFF PROFILES

TIMOTHY WADE
CHIEF, WILDLIFE CONTRACTS BRANCH
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Mr. Wade has more than 37 years of experience in wildlife conservation, habitat management and law enforcement. He is highly experienced in the investigation and evaluation of project impacts to wildlife, associated habitats and the environment, and in designing and conducting in-depth habitat value and impact analysis. Mr. Wade has successfully completed and served as the Project Manager for projects involving compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He is exceptionally experienced in working with state, local, and federal agencies, as well as private entities, to develop and implement mitigation and restoration plans, and manage wildlife habitats. He is qualified to conduct jurisdictional delineations and wetland determinations as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is qualified to conduct surveys for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, the southwestern willow flycatcher, the Mexican spotted owl, the black-footed ferret, the Hualapai Mexican vole, the Mt. Graham red squirrel, the Sonoran pronghorn antelope, the Yuma clapper rail and the Sonoran tiger salamander. He is experienced in the study of applied fluvial geomorphology and in the enforcement of wildlife and conservation laws, and is a certified storm water pollution and prevention plan (SWPPP) inspector.

R. E. SCHWEINSBURG, Ph.D.
STATEWIDE SUPERVISOR
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Dr. Schweinsburg has over 41 years experience in wildlife research and management in a wide variety of positions from field technician to biologist to Vice President of a successful environmental consulting firm, and then Research Program Manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. That experience was acquired in a wide variety of environments from the Arctic to Arizona and Mexico. He is experienced in design and implementation of environmental studies, in aerial surveying, capture and marking of a wide variety of species from herpetofauna to polar bears, remote tracking of animals, logistics and supply of field crews, proposal writing, oversight of budgets and administration of projects, management of people, working with First Nations people, working in cultures other than Anglo, producing and editing reports and scientific publication. He is a founding member of the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup, which produced the state scale *Arizona's Wildlife Linkage Assessment* (2006), and has been instrumental in the Department's follow-up county scale Wildlife Linkage assessments to ensure definition and exhaustive inclusion of more detailed wildlife linkage areas in Arizona.

He has worked closely with a number of organizations, including the Pima County Regional Transportation Authority, to implement the Oro Valley Wildlife Connectivity Corridor. He has worked closely with Arizona Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration and other agencies to construct almost 20 wildlife crossing structures and funnel fencing in Arizona and has supervised all of the projects that have monitored their success in making highways safer for people and wildlife. He has also initiated or supervised to successful completion a wide variety and number of studies relating to, or involving at some point, threatened or endangered species, raptors, NEPA, 404 permitting, roadway ecology, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, habitat connectivity and fragmentation, animal movements, animal abundance surveys, and wildlife life histories or demographics. Projects he has initiated or supervised have won over a dozen state or national awards.

MICHAEL F. INGRALDI, Ph.D.
SENIOR REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGER
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Dr. Ingraldi has worked 21 years for the Arizona Game and Fish Department and is currently with the Department's Research Branch (an interdisciplinary group of 40+ aquatic and terrestrial scientists and technicians). His primary responsibility is to design and implement fish and wildlife related survey, monitoring, and research projects, and administer the Army Corps in-lieu fee wetland mitigation program and the natural resource damage assessment and restoration program. During his tenure with the Department, he has studied a wide variety of species guilds (e.g., distribution of native amphibians within Camp Navajo, Arizona, to implementing the long-term monitoring efforts of flat-tailed horned lizards in southwestern Arizona). He supervises a staff of over 20 biologists and technicians implementing many wildlife related projects throughout Arizona; these currently include the restoration of riparian wetland habitat at the Chevelon Wildlife Area, red and yellow bat roost site selection along the lower Colorado river, developing research and management strategies for the recovery of Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owls in Arizona, and determination of habitat parameters that affect the probability of Mojave fringed-toed lizard occurrence.

RENEE WILCOX
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Ms. Wilcox has more than 18 years of experience in wildlife conservation, habitat evaluation and management. Ms. Wilcox has successfully served as the Project Manager for projects involving compliance with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. She is exceptionally experienced in working with state, local, and federal agencies, as well as private entities, to develop and implement projects involving wildlife monitoring, mitigation, and habitat restoration. She is qualified to conduct surveys for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, the southwestern willow flycatcher, the Mexican spotted owl, the black-footed ferret, the jumping mouse, the Arizona water shrew, the Yuma clapper rail, the Mt. Graham red squirrel, the Yuma clapper rail, and the Huachuca water umbel.

JEFF GAGNON
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Mr. Gagnon has 17 years of professional experience in the Biological Sciences with the last decade focused on the impact of artificial linear developments such as roads, railroads, canals and fencing on wildlife movements and habitat connectivity, including wildlife research, project management and technical writing. He is considered an expert in wildlife-highway relationships and has worked on numerous projects involving various highways and species throughout Arizona, including elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer,

pronghorn, Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep. He has been the lead investigative biologist on the State Route 260 and US Highway 93 wildlife crossing projects. These are some of the most aggressive crossing projects in the nation that focused on reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions while maintaining habitat connectivity. He is experienced in working with state, local, federal and private entities, to develop and implement mitigation plans for enhancement of wildlife connectivity. He provides habitat connectivity expertise at National and International workshops and conferences and regularly publishes his findings in peer-reviewed journals. Mr. Gagnon's is certified in wildlife capture and handling, including the use of dangerous drugs. In addition, his experience in electrical systems has allowed him to use innovative research methods for evaluating and documenting wildlife behavior. As a project manager, Mr. Gagnon has assisted with or overseen environmental regulatory compliance documentation such as environmental assessment checklists required by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Forest Service. He regularly serves as a stakeholder or cooperative agent for inter-agency projects and provides reviews of the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. In addition, Mr. Gagnon has experience with habitat assessments and species-specific surveys for fish, reptiles, birds, small mammals, and large mammals.

SHAWN F. LOWERY
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Mr. Lowery has over 13 years of professional experience in the wildlife management and field research. His management strategies, leadership philosophies and approach to task driven projects has enabled him to develop strong supervisory skills and utilize the passion people have for their work to complete difficult tasks. He is qualified to conduct surveys for a variety of species including southwestern willow flycatcher, cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and burrowing owl. He has taken supervisor training modules at Arizona State Government University and Endangered Species Act training at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service training office. He is qualified to participate in and coordinate surveys and in-depth studies of lesser-long nosed bats, bald and golden eagles, flat-tailed horned lizards, fringe-toed lizards, peregrine falcons and Yuma clapper rail.

DANIEL LEAVITT, Ph.D.
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Dr. Leavitt has over 10 years experience in wildlife research and management in a variety of positions from field technician with the National Park Service, private consultant for the World Wildlife Fund, and field technician, crew supervisor, and PhD student with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Daniel is experienced in design, implementation, and analysis of ecological studies involving a variety of organisms from small mammals, rattlesnakes, lizards, and more. He has award winning science communication skills: in 2010, he was the winner of the Henri Seibert Award from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles for his presentation "*Sceloporus arenicolus* an endemic lizard in an endangered ecosystem", and in 2005 he won the W. Frank Blair Award from the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute for his written piece "Reassessing lizard assemblages in Big Bend National Park after fifty years". He has more than 18 peer-reviewed publications in a variety of regional and international journals including but not limited to the Journal of Herpetology, the Southwestern Naturalist, and Herpetological Review. In addition, he has written more than 10 popular articles that communicate science with a non-science popular audience. He has served a leadership role on multiple committees dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of the sciences and is a current member of the Ecological Society of America, Herpetologist's League, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and Southwestern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.

JOEL M. DIAMOND, Ph.D.
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
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CAREER OVERVIEW

Dr. Diamond has over 13 years of professional experience in wildlife management and field research. He has managed numerous projects for the Arizona Game and Fish Department ranging from evaluating bat habitat in National Parks to monitoring the impact of Department of Defense activities on endemic lizards. He is responsible for collecting and analyzing data and creates descriptive and predictive parametric and non-parametric models of species habitat relationships. With other Branch staff, pursues competitive grants for the purpose of funding original ecological research. He analyzes data and prepares final technical reports and journal manuscripts. He has served as the primary bat ecologist for the Department and other agencies both private and public and is qualified to internally survey abandoned mines and assess for bat habitat prior to reclamation. He has co-authored biological assessments and biological evaluations using data gathered from surveying passerine birds, Peregrine Falcons, Three-toed Woodpeckers, Flammulated Owls and Northern Goshawks. He is also experienced in performing acoustic and visual bird surveys on Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

For more information on how the Branch can prepare a contract proposal to provide you with defensible, high-quality scientific answers from the leading wildlife authority in the state, please contact me. We look forward to working with you on any future projects that can be implemented by utilizing the unique skill sets of our staff.

Sincerely,



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